

Appl. No. : 10/728,693
Filed : December 5, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add claims 44-56 as follows. For convenience, all claims are shown.

1. (Original) A fastener comprising:
a shaft having a first end and second end;
an exposed portion attached to the first end of the shaft; and
an identifying color on the exposed portion, the identifying color pre-selected to correspond to at least one specified physical property of the fastener, the identifying color capable of being recognized by a person of normal vision from a distance of at least 18 feet when the shaft has been inserted into a surface.
2. (Original) The fastener of Claim 1, further comprising a second identifier on the exposed portion, the second identifier corresponding to at least a second specified physical property of the fastener.
3. (Original) The fastener of Claim 2, wherein the second identifier is a color.
4. (Original) The fastener of Claim 2, wherein the second identifier is a letter.
5. (Original) A method of identifying physical properties of inserted fasteners from a distance, comprising:
applying a colored coating over the surface of an exposed portion of the fastener prior to using the fastener, wherein the colored coating has been pre-selected to correspond to at least one physical property of the fastener; and
inserting the fastener so that the coloring on the exposed portion remains visible and may be determined by a person of normal vision from a distance.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the distance is 15 feet.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the distance is 18 feet.

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8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the fastener is selected from the group comprising nails, bolts, staples, rivets, screws, wedge anchor bolts, anchor bolts, a bolt and nut, or a lag bolt.

9. (Original) A method of identifying fastener physical properties during building inspection, comprising:

selecting a plurality of colors to apply to an exposed surface of a fastener, where each color connotes one or more properties of the fastener;

applying one of said plurality of colors to the exposed surface of the fastener, so that the color may be recognized by a person of normal vision from a distance of at least 10 feet;

inserting the fastener into an object; and

providing a building inspector with color key indicating the physical properties that each selected color connotes.

10.-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A method of making a fastener with physical properties which are identifiable from a distance, comprising:

pre-selecting a plurality of colors where each color corresponds to at least one specified physical property of a fastener;

providing a fastener having a known physical property; and

applying a specified color of the plurality to the fastener so that the color may be determined from a distance, the specified color having been pre-selected to define the known physical property of the fastener.

14.-43. (Cancelled)

44. (New) A fastener comprising:

a shaft having a first end and second end;

an exposed portion attached to the first end of the shaft; and

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an identifying color on the exposed portion, the identifying color pre-selected to correspond to at least one specified physical property of the fastener, the identifying color capable of being recognized by a person of normal vision from a distance of at least 10 feet when the shaft has been inserted into a surface.

45. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein the fastener is a nail.
46. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein the fastener is a bolt.
47. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein the fastener is a staple.
48. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein the fastener is a rivet.
49. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein the fastener is a screw.
50. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein the fastener is a wedge anchor bolt.
51. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein the fastener is an anchor bolt.
52. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein the fastener is a bolt and nut.
53. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, wherein the fastener is a lag bolt.
54. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, further comprising a symbol, the symbol being pre-selected to correspond to at least one specified physical property of the fastener.
55. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, further comprising a letter, the letter being pre-selected to correspond to at least one specified physical property of the fastener.
56. (New) The fastener of Claim 1, further comprising a number, the number being pre-selected to correspond to at least one specified physical property of the fastener.